last Power Ministers Conference to increase the tariff in order to bring the different Electricity Boards out of the red;

(b) whether any instructions or directions hvae been given by the Centre to contain freight hikes to the minimum by resorting to other means to avoid losses, such as losses in transmission; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) As per available information, two States namely, Maharashtra and Haryana have revised their tariff after the last Power Ministers' Conference held on 4-4-92. However; during 1991-92, 14 States had revised their tariff.

(b) and (c) In order to improve the overall performance, State Electricity Boards have been reqeusted to identify specific areas of improvement and to draw up an Action Plan to achieve the same. These include reduction in T & D losses, economy in fuel, review of manpower cost, improvement in revenue collection etc.

Implementation of Uniform Power Tariff Scheme

1259. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scheme uniform tariff could not take off because of resistance from the State Electricity Boards; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government have taken to prevail upon the State Electricity Boards in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The fixation of tariff for supply of power by the State Electricity Board is within the jurisdiction of the Board/ State Govt. concerned. No scheme to levy uniform power tariff in the country has been evolved so far. However, during the Conference of State Power Ministers held on 4-4-92, it was resolved that there should be a 'national minimum agricultural tariff' for electrical energy and that this should be fixed at 50 paise per unit, for the present.

Contract given by DESU to a Dutch Firm

1260. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DESU has decided to give a contract to a Dutch firm for installing gas insulated switch geard even though the company did not submit its quotation for the project;

(b) if so, what are the names of foreign and indigenous firms, which have submitted their quotations for the project; and

(c) what are the reasons for awarding the contract to a firm which even did not submit its quotation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) In response to the tenders invited by DESU for the installation of 66 KV Gas Insulated Switchgears, offers were received from M/s. AEG, West Germany, M/s. Marubeni Corporation, Japan, M/s. Merlin Gerin, France and M/s. Mitsui & Co. Ltd., Japan. The lowesth offer of M/s. Marubeni Corporation could not be finalised as they could not comply with technical requirements and also claimed substantial increase in cost. Meanwhile an offer was recived by DESU